

REMARKS

Claim 4 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 9 and claim 9 is canceled. Claims 1-3 were previously canceled. No new matter is presented. The Amendment is deemed proper after final rejection since it places the claims in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, upon entry of the Amendment, claims 4-8 and 10 will be all of the claims pending in the application.

I. Rejection of claims 4-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over EP '464

In paragraph 1 of the Action, claims 4-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by EP 1219464 (EP '464).

II. Claim Objection

In paragraph 2 of the Action, claim 9 is objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. As the reason for indicating allowable subject matter, the Examiner states that the art of record does not disclose a silicate treatment as in claim 9 after a fluorine fusing treatment.

III. Applicants' Response

Claim 4 is amended herein to incorporate the subject matter of claim 9, which is indicated as allowable, thereby obviating the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Claim 9 is canceled, thereby rendering the objection to claim 9 moot.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 of claims 4-8 and of the objection to claim 9.

Claim 10 is allowed.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

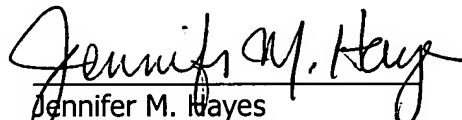
Respectfully submitted,

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